

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 A-01 SY-10 EB-11 DRC-01

/159 W

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R 061703Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2408

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 799

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KARACHI TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 023664

1. ATHENS PRESS FEBRUARY 6 REPORTED GOVERNMENT SOURCE ON GOG POSITION RE TWO CONVICTED ARAB TERRORISTS. ACCORDING TO GOG OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE, ATHENS NEWS AGENCY, GOVERNMENT SOURCE, REFERRING TO NEWS AGENCY REPORTS ON ATTITUDE OF GOG IN CASE OF TWO CONVICTED ARAB TERRORISTS, EMPHASIZED THAT STATEMENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER SPYRIDON TETENES BEFORE LATEST TERRORISTS ATTACK ON GREEK SHIP IN PORT OF KARACHI REMAINED GREEK POSITION. ANA REPEATED FM TETENES' STATEMENT OF JANUARY 28 (ATHENS 575), "JUDICIAL AUTHORITY AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY HAS CARRIED OUT ITS DUTY ACCORDING TO CONSCIENCE. THE GOVERNMENT, AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT STATE AGENCY (SIC), WILL HANDLE THE MATTER FURTHER ON THE STRENGTH OF CRITERIA GOVERNING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCCASIONS, IN THE APPROPRIATE MANNER, AFTER COMPLETION

OF THE PROCEDURE INVOLVING LEGAL MEANS."

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS REPORTED ADDITIONAL COMMENT FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCE THAT "WHEN THE THREE ASIAN TERRORISTS HIJACKED SHIP AND HELD TWO OF ITS OFFICERS HOSTAGES IN PORT OF KARACHI WE CALLED ARAB AMBASSADORS IN ATHENS AND TOLD THEM SUCH ACTION COULD ONLY JEOPARDIZE THEIR POSITION. WE TOLD THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO COMMUTE THE DEATH PENALTIES OF THE TWO ARABS AND EVENTUALLY TO GET RID OF THEM. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT GIVE ASSURANCE IN ORDER TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES. ON THE CONTRARY, WE TOLD THEM THAT IF THE HOSTAGES WERE HARMED, THE GOVERNMENT ACTING UNDER PUBLIC OPINION PRESSURE, WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO EXECUTE THE TWO CONVICTED TERRORISTS." ONLY OTHER ATHENS NEWSPAPER TO REPORT FULLER VERSION OF GOG REMARKS WAS AKROPOLIS WHERE ARTICLE NOTED GOG HAD AGREED PRIOR TO KARACHI INCIDENT TO RELEASE ARAB TERRORISTS. (COMMENT: DESPITE ANA'S LIMITED REPORTING OF GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, EMBASSY BELIEVES ATHENS NEWS COVERAGE REPRESENTS BETTER APPROXIMATION OF FULL STATEMENT.)

3. SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT KANELAKOS TOLD EMBOFFS FEBRUARY 5 THAT FROM JUDICIAL VIEWPOINT PARDON OR AMNESTY COULD BE GRANTED TWO CONVICTED TERRORISTS AT ANY TIME SINCE THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF COMPETENCE OF CRIMINAL COURT WHICH TRIED CASE. ALTHOUGH APPEAL HAS BEEN FILED WITH SUPREME COURT, KANELAKOS SAID SUCH APPEAL COULD BE WITHDRAWN.

4. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE TERRORISTS WILL EVENTUALLY BE DEPORTED. WE DO NOT THINK FURTHER U.S. APPROACH TO GOG WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE IN THIS CASE. GOG FULLY AWARE U.S. POSITION.  
TASCA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, HOSTAGES, EXTORTION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 023664  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KARACHI TERRORISTS  
**TAGS:** PINS, GR, PK  
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